

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 PRS-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0082

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2032

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, VT, WG, GE, GW

SUBJECT: GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUETZ, THE VATICAN,
AND GDR

REF: ROME 15028

1. AS RESULT OF PRESS LEAK, BERLIN PRESS HAS REPORTED
IN DETAIL CANCELLATION OF ROME TRIP BY GOVERNING MAJOR
SCHUETZ BECAUSE OF VATICAN REFUSAL TO ALLOW FRG
AMBASSADOR TO ACCOMPANY HIM. INCIDENT HAS PROVOKED
SYMPATHETIC REACTION FROM SCHUETZ IN BERLIN, WHERE
OPPOSITION LEADER LORENZ HAS ASKED BERLINERS TO WRITE
PAPAL NUNCIO IN BONN TO PROTEST VATICAN ACTION. MATTER
WILL ALSO BE DISCUSSED IN BUNDESTAG. SCHUETZ HIMSELF
TOLD ALLIED COMMANDANTS MEETING OCTOBER 31 THAT
DECISION TO CANCEL TRIP WAS NOT PERSONAL, BUT TAKEN IN
FULL CONSULTATION WITH FRG.

2. RE PARA 2 REFTTEL REGARDING POSSIBILITY OF
HIGH-LEVEL VATICAN OFFICIAL VISITING GDR IN NOVEMBER,
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DIE WELT NOVEMBER 4 REPORTED THAT ARCHBISHOP LUIGI

POGGI WOULD VISIT GDR FOR NOVEMBER 20 MEETING OF "BERLIN CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS FROM EUROPEAN STATES". PAPER SPECULATED POGGI WOULD ALSO PREPARE WAY FOR LATER VISIT OF ARCHBISHOP ARGOSTINO CASAROLI, VATICAN'S EAST EUROPEAN EXPERT.

3. VATICAN'S HANDLING OF SCHUETZ VISIT ALSO INTERESTING IN VIEW OF GDR PERMISSION GRANTED ALFRED CARDINAL BENGSCHE, ARCHBISHOP OF BERLIN (INCLUDING WESTERN SECTORS) AND NORTHERN PORTION OF GDR, TO VISIT FRG FOR FIRST TIME SINCE HE WAS APPOINTED IN 1961. BENGSCHE IS RESIDENT OF EAST BERLIN (UNLIKE HIS LUTHERAN COLLEAGUE). THROUGH THE YEARS GDR HAS GRADUALLY PERMITTED HIM TO TRAVEL MORE WIDELY--IN LATE 1960'S AND EARLY 1970'S, BENGSCHE RECEIVED PERMISSION VISIT WEST BERLIN THREE DAYS PER MONTH, AND FOLLOWING NEW ARRANGEMENT WITH GDR GOVERNMENT IN EARLY 1973, HE WAS ALLOWED TO VISIT WEST BERLIN UP TO THIRTY DAYS EACH QUARTER. ON NOV 1 BENGSCHE PREACHED IN BAMBERG ON OCCASION OF 850TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF CATHOLIC MISSION TO POMMERANIA.

4. PRESS HAS ALSO CARRIED ACCOUNTS RECENTLY OF GDR INTENTION TO RESTORE NUMBER OF CHURCHES THROUGHOUT EAST GERMANY SUCH AS BERLIN CATHEDRAL (LUTHERAN). FUNDS FOR REPAIR AND RESTORATION WORK COME FOR MOST PART FROM WEST GERMANY. EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT WITH GDR APPARENTLY PREPARED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS TOWARD CHURCHES AND CHURCH OFFICIALS, VATICAN MAY HAVE BEEN UNWILLING TO JEOPARDIZE SUCH PROGRESS BY RECEIVING FRG AMBASSADOR ALONG WITH SCHUETZ.

5. LOCAL PRESS NOVEMBER 6 REPORTED THAT VATICAN'S "OSSERVATORE ROMANO" POINTED OUT IN MOST RECENT ISSUE THAT FORMER GOVERNING MAYOR WILLY BRANDT HAD TWICE VISITED POPE UNACCOMPANIED BY FRG AMBASSADOR; SCHUETZ ACKNOWLEDGED THIS WAS SO AT MEETING WITH COMMANDANTS, BUT INSISTED THAT ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS PROPOSED CALL WERE WELL UNDERSTOOD IN ADVANCE. SELIGMANN

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